Development of small and medium towns in Assam

*176. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the small and medium towns selected for Central aid in Assam under the Integrated Development of "Small and Medium Towns Scheme" during the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) the names of the towns which have not been included in the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) During the 7th Plan, three towns viz. Karimganj, Diphu and Nagaon from Assam have been included under the Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns.

(b) Against an allocation of two towns, the State Government recommended ten *towns namely Karimganj*, Diphu, Nagaon, Sibsagar, Bongaigaon, Golaghat, Dhubri, North Lakhimpur, Mangaldoi and Nalbari out of which only two viz. Karimganj and Diphu were included under the Scheme. Subsequently, Nagaon has also been included.

Development of food processing industries in Madhya Pradesh

*177. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
SHRI CHANDAN SHARMA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes have been drawn up for the development of food processing industry in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any funds have been earmarked for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) No specific scheme has been drawn up by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for the development of food processing industries in the State of Madhya Pradesh. The Government of Madhya Pradesh have, however, set up a High Level Committee to study prospects of agro-based industries, especially food processing industries. The terms of reference of the Committee include a study of the prospects of agro-based industries, especially food processing industries. Ministry of Food Processing Industries is also associated with the Committee.

2. Ministry of Food Processing Industries have a Plan Scheme under which financial assistance can be provided to the State Government/ Cooperative undertakings for the setting up of fruit and vegetable processing units.

3. Food Processing industry has been recognised as 'Thrust Area' by the Governemnt of Madhya Pradesh for intensive development. According to information sent by the Madhya Pradesh Government, food processing industries set up in 5 advanced districts of the state, *viz.*, Indore, Bhopal, Jabalpur, Durg and Gwalior will be provided all those facilities which are available to these industries in category 'A' backward districts.

Survey of lignite deposits in the country

*178. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India have conducted any survey regarding the lignite deposits in the country; if so, the details and the results thereof;